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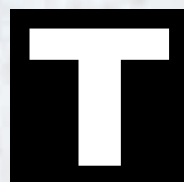
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LEGENDARY SWISS WATCHES SINCE 1853





The Aruba Today Newspaper announces that due to the holidays, we will not be in circulation Thursday and Friday, December 25th and 26th. We will be back on newsstands everywhere bright and early to serve our readers and advertisers first thing in the morning, Saturday, December 27th. Until then, Season's Greetings and Happy Holidays from the team at the Aruba Today Newspaper!

## Across New York, pausing to honor police officers



NYPD officers stand for a moment of silence at approximately 2:47 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 23, 2014, near the site where New York Police Department officers Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu were murdered in the Brooklyn borough of New York at 2:47 this past Saturday.

(AP Photo/Craig Ruttle)

MARC SANTORA

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**NEW YORK** - In a city full of noise, distraction and debate, there were no words. New York City honored its two fallen police officers Tuesday afternoon with a moment of silence at 2:47, marking the instant at which they were shot on a Brooklyn street corner three days ago.

But even before the city paused, there was an outpouring of condolences and mourning, as New Yorkers found ways large and small to lend support to the police force.

In Times Square on Tuesday morning, Steve Norred, 50, and his wife, Heather, 41, stopped to say thank you to an officer.

"I just wanted to tell him how sorry I was for his loss," Norred said.

In neighborhoods around the city, people made a point of stopping to shake the hand of an officer, hug an officer, thank an officer. Anything to show support for a department reeling from the deaths of Officers Wenjian Liu, 32, and Rafael Ramos, 40.

One day after calling on people to put aside protests and political debate

so attention could be paid to the families of the officers, Mayor Bill de Blasio and his wife, Chirlane McCray, visited the memorial that has been growing daily on the Bedford-Stuyvesant street corner where the officers were killed.

As a steady drizzle fell, the police set up a tent to shield the hundreds of flowers, handwritten messages, framed portraits and U.S. flags blanketing Tompkins Avenue. McCray placed a bouquet of white roses on the pavement and then the two stood for a moment. They left without saying a word. De Blasio conveyed a sense of the loss Monday night in a letter addressed to New Yorkers.

"Our city is in pain," he wrote. "First and foremost, let us remember our obligation to protect our police just as they protect us." The slaying of Liu and Ramos came at a moment of heightened tension between the police and communities across the country, after the fatal shooting of Michael Brown, an unarmed man in Ferguson, Missouri, and the death of Eric Garner, a Staten Island man, during an arrest. After a grand jury did not in-

dict a police officer in the death of Garner, waves of protesters have been demonstrating in the streets of New York.

While they were mostly peaceful, the focus of much of the protesters' anger has been directed at police officers, calling for reforms but also at times lashing out with vicious,

personal invectives directed at police officers.

As passions seemed to ease for the moment Tuesday, New York City's loss was felt far beyond the five boroughs.

Schoolchildren wrote special Christmas cards to thank their local police officers. Charitable organizations offered to cover the

education of the young son of one of the officers and to pay for the mortgages on both families' homes.

Condolences poured in from police departments around the nation.

As far away as San Diego, fellow police officers wrapped black ribbons on their badges in a show of solidarity. □



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## Inquiry shows no IRS connections with White House

DAVID S. JOACHIM

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WASHINGTON — An 18-month congressional investigation into the Internal Revenue Service's mistreatment of conservative political groups seeking tax exemptions has failed to show coordination between agency officials and political operatives in the White House, according to a report released Tuesday. The IRS has admitted that

before the 2012 election it inappropriately delayed approval of tax exemption applications by groups affiliated with the Tea Party movement, but the IRS and its parent agency, the Treasury Department, have said that the errors were not motivated by partisanship. Republican lawmakers, dismissing the administration's denials, have suggested that the delays were not only politically motivated

but were also orchestrated by the White House. Some of the most strident comments have come from Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Calif., the chairman of the House Oversight Committee, which has issued subpoenas to compel testimony from administration officials and held a series of tumultuous hearings on the IRS scandal. Issa, who is stepping down from the chairmanship,



President Barack Obama holds an end-of-year news conference, at the White House in Washington. A congressional investigation into the IRS's mistreatment of conservative political groups has failed to show coordination between agency officials and political operatives in the White House, according to a report released Tuesday.

(Jabin Botsford/The New York Times)

has accused the IRS commissioner of engaging in a Watergate-style cover-up and accused administration officials of obstructing his investigation. In a parting shot, Issa released the 226-page summary of the panel's findings on Tuesday. It said that language used in emails collected by the committee suggested that IRS officials in the tax-exemption unit were trying to find ways to sanction groups they dis-

liked. In one email, for example, an IRS official said of a conservative group, "In all, the millions of documents and dozens of interviews with Obama administration officials conducted in the investigation 'show I.R.S. officials failed to limit their professional judgments to enforcing the tax code and instead inserted their own beliefs and judgments into federal matters to influence outcomes and decisions,'" the report said.

## Prosecutor says guns were smuggled onto US airliners

**NEW YORK (AP)** — A New York prosecutor has announced five arrests in a brazen scheme in which guns — even an AK-47 rifle — were taken onto passenger jets for years in carry-on luggage.

Brooklyn District Attorney Kenneth Thompson made the disclosure at a news conference Tuesday. He announced the arrests a day after charges were announced in Atlanta against an airline baggage handler.

He said he was not trying to scare anyone. But he called "truly frightening" what investigators learned after a probe that started as a way to reduce gun violence in Brooklyn.

He said former Delta Air Lines employee Mark Quentin Henry took guns aboard at least 17 commercial airliners this year from Atlanta to New York airports. The name of his lawyer wasn't listed in court records.

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## NYC congressman pleads guilty to tax evasion

DEEPTI HAJELA

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — A Republican Congressman from New York City admitted Tuesday to federal tax evasion, pleading guilty to charges he had fought as he won re-election this year but that now leave his congressional future in question.

Michael Grimm entered a guilty plea to one count of aiding in the filing of a false tax return. He made headlines in January after telling a local cable TV news station reporter he wanted to throw the journalist off a balcony for asking about a campaign finance inquiry. Grimm, 44, had been set to go to trial in February on charges of evading taxes by hiding more than \$1 million in sales and wages while running a Manhattan health-food restaurant. Joined in court by two attorneys, he acknowledged sending his accountant underreported receipts and using the leftover money to pay employees off the books and cover other expenses.

Sentencing was scheduled



**Rep. Michael Grimm, (R-N.Y.) leaves court in New York, Dec. 23, 2014. Grimm, who was easily re-elected to his third term in Congress last month despite a pending federal indictment, pleaded guilty to tax fraud on Tuesday.** (J.M. Mantel/The New York Times)

for June 8. Prosecutors said a range of 24 to 30 months in prison would be appropriate, while the defense estimated the appropriate sentence as between 12 and 18 months.

News of the planned plea quickly brought pressure from Democrats for Grimm to resign his seat.

The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee said in a statement before his court appearance

Tuesday that it was "past time for Michael Grimm to go," calling his continued presence in Congress "a

disservice to the people of Staten Island and Brooklyn and a stain on the institution." □

## Southwest jet loses a wingtip in LaGuardia airport brush up

SCOTT MAYEROWITZ

AP Airlines Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Some Christmas fliers got their wings clipped — literally.

Two jets at New York's LaGuardia Airport got a little too close for comfort Tuesday morning, with one ripping the wingtip off the other. No passengers on either plane were injured. American Airlines Flight 1104 from Dallas was taxiing to its gate just before 11 a.m. as Southwest Airlines Flight 449 to Denver was departing.

The left winglet — a vertical fin at the tip of a wing designed to improve airflow and fuel efficiency — was ripped off the Southwest plane after it made contact with the American jet's left horizontal stabilizer, part of the tail. Both planes were Boeing 737s.

American spokesman Joshua Freed said in an

email that the airline's plane "was taxiing with the help of ground personnel walking near each wingtip." Southwest refused to say if the airline also had workers on the tarmac assisting its pilots, or if that was required by company policy. Its flight left the gate 23 minutes late and there was a light rain at the time of the accident.

The 143 Southwest passengers and five crew members exited the jet via stairs and were then taken by bus off the tarmac. The aircraft was taken out of service for inspection and repairs. Southwest is finding alternative ways to get the passengers to their destination, according to spokesman Brad Hawkins. The American plane, with 143 passengers and six crew members, made it to gate D7 and passengers left the aircraft via the jet

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## 586 8107/592 7858

## Interfaith homes wrestle with the Christmas tree

**ANDY NEWMAN**

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NEW YORK - Two people meet. They fall in love. Big questions come up. Move in together? Do you want children? Big questions are answered. Life flows on. Then December rolls around, and for some couples, things get complicated.

"Can we get a tree?"

When one half of a couple is Jewish and the other is gentile - more to the point, when one grew up with a Christmas tree and the other did not - the question can come freighted with all sorts of cultural and emotional baggage.

The Christmas tree has its roots in pre-Christian winter solstice rites - a celebration of the death-defying power of evergreen plants. But as everyday symbols of Christianity go, it is a potent one.

With Hanukkah in the homestretch and Christmas approaching, The New York Times asked Jewish readers in interfaith relationships about their first trees.

For some, allowing a tree into their living space was a guilt-inducing surrender to assimilation. For others, it was a joyous merger, often involving both a tree and a menorah.

Sometimes each side has to give. When Simon Silverstein and his wife got together in Brooklyn, he was firmly anti-tree. "I'd say, 'I'm not used to this, and I really do not want it,'" he recalled.

Eventually, after the couple had children, Silverstein agreed to a pine branch stuck in a pot. Today, their tree is a wooden "tree sculpture" that he made, with a Star of David on top.

"Our compromise seems to be working," Silverstein said. "We've been married 50 years."

In Cheshire Frager's case, it was her gentile husband who had to give. Like many Jews, Frager, who is from Queens, grew up sharing in her Christian

tinsel and cranberry strings. "Guilty? No way," said Frager, who works for a Jewish charity. "We did Hanukkah stuff for Hanukkah and Christmas stuff for Christmas."

But for Eric Ben Reuven, of Queens, the first tree "was a hard thing."

foliage and decorated with ornaments.

At the Jewish Outreach Institute, a New York organization that helps interfaith families connect to the Jewish community, Paul Golin, the associate executive director, says he fields frequent

not Christian, but like many Japanese, she grew up with a tree and lobbied for one. "She said, 'It's a Japanese cultural thing.' But I said, 'No it's not Japanese, it's Western and is how the culture has adapted.'"

"So we agreed to celebrate only Hanukkah in our home," he said. "But my wife does feel some degree of loss and she is making a sacrifice, and I tell her I appreciate that. She's giving up a piece of her childhood."

Michael Bassman, of Queens, wrote that while he was "uncomfortable with the tree," he goes along for his family.

"It looks nice, smells great, and is an indispensable part of the Christmas ritual for my wife, and for the last 13 years, my kids," he wrote. Bassman helps pick out the tree, but: "I don't do the trimming."

And then there is the case of Zachary Assael-Berkowitz Staggers, 28, and his Catholic ex-girlfriend, Alison McCarthy. Though broken up a few months, they are still friends, so when McCarthy asked him to help her get a tree, he agreed.

On the appointed night, Staggers overcelebrated at dinner, found himself unfit to drive, and canceled. McCarthy was livid. "It was as if I had desecrated a church or told a group of small children that Santa did not exist," Staggers said. The next morning, he headed out to a sidewalk tree stand. At a loss, he asked the vendor to recommend a tree. "Just pick one," the man replied brusquely.



**Zachary Assael-Berkowitz Staggers, who bought a Christmas tree for his Catholic ex-girlfriend, Alison McCarthy, right, in New York. Couples in interfaith homes can wrestle with whether to have a Christmas tree.**

(Kirsten Luce/The New York Times)

friends' traditions. When she married an Italian-American 44 years ago, she looked forward to a Christmas tree of her own. "Imagine my chagrin," she wrote, "when the tree turned out to be a tiny Woolworth's special, 2 feet tall, which my art-director husband decorated with Life Savers and other itchy-bitsy items."

After "seven bitter years" of small-tree Christmases, the couple moved from an apartment to a house, and Frager got her way: a real, 6-foot tree, with lights and

The tree, he wrote, "was beautifully decorated and added a warm TV-show glow to the living room, but it did hurt a bit to see it there." Ben Reuven's now ex-wife later converted to Judaism; no more tree. "It did feel strange for her to not see a tree in a home she was living in," he wrote. One of the most creative compromises can be found in the home of Michael Patchen of Greenwich, Connecticut: a 7-foot-tall "Menorah Tree," with nine oversize candelabra stems, each vined with evergreen

questions about what is widely referred to as the "December dilemma."

"Unfortunately, everyone has to answer it for themselves about their own comfort level," he said. "It's a question of what does this mean and how do you present it? For example, I've heard of households where the child is helping Daddy or Mommy celebrate Christmas, so they set it up like this is a tradition from this side of the family."

Golin himself does not have a Christmas tree. His wife is from Japan and is





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THE BRINKER PUMPS – THE SOMMET BAG

## Jewish parents' tradition: Explaining Hanukkah at school

**MARK OPPENHEIMER**

© 2014 New York Times

When Seth Gitter was a boy, his father owned a special kitchen implement that got taken out every December or so.

"He had a special skillet just to make latkes on the go, one of those electric plug-in skillets," Gitter recalled.

The Gitters lived in the small town of Delaware, Ohio, and most years he was the only Jewish student in his elementary school class. And every year, when the holiday season rolled around, his well-meaning teachers would invite his father to explain Hanukkah to the Christian children of suburban Ohio.

"Even though I went to a public school, they would still sing carols and do other Christmas stuff, so it was a good balance," recalled Gitter, now an economics professor at Towson University, in Maryland. "Every year my dad would come into my class and teach the kids to make latkes,

and he would bring gelt" - the traditional chocolate coins.

Similar memories reside in the kopfs, or heads, of many Jews, especially those who grew up without many other Jews around. It is pretty much impossible to keep Christmas out of preholiday classrooms, so where Jewish students are a tiny minority, teachers compensate by inviting their mother or father in for a little multicultural flavor. The classroom visit, toting a menorah and some plastic dreidels, is an annual ritual for many Jewish parents. Call it - as one Jewish mother from Austin, Texas, who declined to be named, did -

"Hanukkah-splaining," playing off the neologism "mansplaining," which denotes a man condescendingly explaining something to a woman.

Of course, the Jewish parent's Hanukkah-time invitation to share his or her culture comes with the best of intentions. And it

probably began as part of a midcentury urge to assimilate Jews, Christians' older siblings in the Judeo-Christian tradition, into the U.S. mainstream. Hanukkah, as a holiday that fell around Christmastime and

Christian favoritism. Rather than eliminate "Jingle Bells" and "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" from the holiday pageant - which, let's face it, would be no fun at all and would displease plenty of Jewish



**Danny Glusman lights candles for Hanukkah with his family at their home in Atlanta. Since it's pretty much impossible to keep Christmas out of pre-holiday classrooms, some teachers compensate by inviting Jewish parents for a classroom visit to explain Hanukkah to the children. From left: Eliana, 9, Rael, 8, Kemp, 4, Mira, 7, and wife Florie.**

(Kevin Liles/The New York Times)

involved gift giving, albeit on a lesser scale, was useful for that pluralist project. Inviting Jewish parents to Hanukkah-splain can be a hedge against charges of

children, too - one compromise is to raise high the menorah.

"At the school assembly, where they sing holiday songs, last year they asked

us to be part of it and light the candles," said Danny Glusman, a Jewish father of four from Atlanta.

However, he said, the teachers at his children's charter school are not of one mind about religion. This year, when one of his daughters brought a Hanukkah menorah to her classroom, the teacher asked her to put it away because it was a "religious item."

"I think they are confused," Glusman said. "There are Muslims, Jews, some Hindus, and many of the teachers are just nervous about doing the wrong thing. Our kids are learning not necessarily Christmas songs, but holiday songs, not 'First Noel' or 'Silent Night,' more 'Jingle Bells' or 'Winter Wonderland.' But they see it as we don't get to sing our Hanukkah songs. So this year, the music teacher asked me to send over some Hanukkah songs to teach everybody." □



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### US Financial Front:

## Even economists go shopping during holiday season

**JOSH BARRO**

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"The Deadweight Loss of Christmas" is the sort of academic paper that makes ordinary people think economists are kind of crazy.

"I find that holiday gift giving destroys between one-third and one-tenth of the value of gifts," proclaimed Joel Waldfogel, then an economics professor at Yale, in the 1993 paper. He estimated that ill-chosen gifts caused between \$4 billion and \$13 billion a year in economic waste; for comparison, he cited an estimate that put economic costs of the income tax at \$50 billion.

This is the sort of provocation economists love: It rejects a beloved, sentimental tradition and devalues interpersonal interaction, while upholding the virtue of individual choice. After all, why should you shop for me, when I certainly know what I want better than you do? It's no surprise that Waldfogel's paper was published in *The American Economic Review*, one of the world's top three economics journals.

But one thing I learned from growing up around economists is that they do not always live up to their provocations. For example, my economist father, who taught me as a young child that voting is irrational because your odds of affecting the electoral outcome are infinitesimal, votes. And Waldfogel, who went on to write a book called "Scroogenomics: Why You Shouldn't Buy Presents for the Holidays," actually does buy presents for the holidays, at least for some people.

"When I know people well, I choose gifts for them,"

Waldfogel told me. "I know my family well."

That puts Waldfogel in line with most economists: Last year, members of the IGM Economics Experts Panel at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business overwhelmingly defended gift giving as an efficient way for people to

And my father's record on this is instructive, because it is mixed.

Sometimes there are big hits: This Christmas he found a book of John Wesley sermons published around 1825, a perfect gift for his wife, Rachel, who is deeply interested in the history of Methodism, but most likely

set out to do: He identified an item I would not have bought for myself but apparently wanted.

The third level of analysis considers the fact that I now feel I should not have eaten the chocolates, or at least not so many of them in two days. Behavioral economists call this

a key point of his paper was that not all gifts are created equal. He made his estimates by surveying Yale students about how much they valued the gifts they got at the holidays, compared with those gifts' actual purchase prices. Friends and significant others were pretty good at giving gifts the recipients actually liked; it was aunts, uncles and grandparents who bought the least-loved items.

The real drag on the economy then isn't gifts; it's bad gifts. And Waldfogel cheers the rise of the gift card as a substitute for the bad gift: Something you can buy your niece or grandson when you have no idea what they actually like.

"What's interesting about gift cards is that they are a lot like cash but have emerged as a way to give the choice to the recipient without the ickiness of cash," he says. In other words, the dead-weight loss problem he identified in 1993 may be on the wane because of a technological advance.

It's true that Americans have taken to gift cards: CEB TowerGroup, a research firm that tracks gift-card sales, says they grew at a more than 10 percent annual pace through much of the first decade of the century. According to CEB data, Americans will load \$126 billion onto gift cards in 2014, or almost 1 percent of gross domestic product.

But not all economists agree that this is a valuable technological advance.

"It seems clear to me that a gift certificate is inferior to money," my dad says. Which means there is more chocolate in my future. □



Though they may argue it's irrational and inefficient, some economists give gifts over the holidays anyway.  
(Oscar Bolton Green/The New York Times)

show that they care about each other.

David H. Autor of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology pointed to "revealed preference": If people give and receive so many gifts, it's presumably because it makes them happy. Alberto Alesina of Harvard said choosing a gift "is a signal of intensity of search effort," which is econo-speak for "it's the thought that counts." Since it's almost Christmas, I called up the economist I know best to get his perspective on gift giving: My father, Harvard professor Robert Barro. He says his approach to gifts is to try to buy something that the recipient didn't know he or she wanted.

would not have found the item herself.

On the other hand, let's evaluate the box of fancy chocolates he and Rachel sent me for Christmas this year.

There are three ways to evaluate this gift. The first level of analysis is that I'm on a diet and certainly would not have bought the chocolates myself, which suggests this was an example of what Waldfogel warned us about: gift mismatch leading to dead-weight loss.

The second level of analysis is that I've already eaten half the box, which demonstrates my revealed preference for chocolate, and shows my father achieved exactly what he

phenomenon "hyperbolic discounting": We overrate the value of immediate pleasures compared with delayed ones, and may do things today (like eat half a box of truffles) that we would have said yesterday we wouldn't do and will say tomorrow that we should not have done.

My father, who is not a behavioral economist, would surely reject this last analysis and say that if I ate the chocolates, that must have been the rational thing for me to do; therefore, the chocolates were a great gift.

In fairness to Waldfogel, a lot of gift giving occurs between people who don't know each other as well as my dad and I do, and



After shutdown:

# Key North Korean websites suffer continued outages



A South Korean student looks at a picture, which shows how the cyber warfare is going to be waged in the future in the Korean Peninsula if Korean War takes place, at Korea War Memorial Museum in Seoul, South Korea, Tuesday, Dec. 23, 2014. An hours-long Internet outage in one of the

world's least-wired countries was probably more inconvenient to foreigners than to North Korean residents, most of whom have never gone online. South Koreans, who are banned by national security law from accessing North Korean websites, the outage made little difference in their lives.

(AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

**FOSTER KLUG**  
**HYUNG-JIN KIM**  
**Associated Press**

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)**

— Key North Korean websites suffered intermittent outages Tuesday after a nearly 10-hour shutdown that followed a U.S. vow to respond to a crippling cyberattack on Sony Pictures that Washington blames on Pyongyang.

It wasn't immediately clear what caused the Internet stoppage in one of the least-wired and poorest countries in the world, but outside experts said it could be anything from a cyberattack to a simple power failure. The White House and the State Department declined to say whether the U.S. government was responsible.

Even if a cyberattack had caused the shutdown, analysts said, it would largely be symbolic since only a tiny number of North Koreans are allowed on the Internet — a fraction of Pyongyang's staunchly loyal elite, as well as foreigners.

Though it denies responsibility for the Sony hack, North Korea's government

has called it a "righteous deed" and made clear its fury over Sony's film "The Interview," a comedy that depicts the assassination of the North's authoritarian leader, Kim Jong Un, the head of a 1.2 million-man army and the focus of an intense cult of personality. South Korean officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because of office rules, said the North's official Korean Central News Agency and the Rodong Sinmun newspaper, which are the main channels for official North Korean news, had both gone down. But the websites were back up later Tuesday. Among the posts glorifying the ruling Kim family included one about Kim Jong Un visiting a catfish farm.

U.S. computer experts described Monday's Internet outage in the North as sweeping and progressively worse. Jim Cowie, chief scientist at Dyn Research, an Internet performance company, said in an online post that the North came back online after a 9 1/2-hour outage. But the company said the North later suffered two outages,

one lasting half an hour. Possible causes for the shutdown include an external attack on its fragile network or even just power problems, Cowie wrote. But, he added, "We can only guess."

The outage was probably more inconvenient to foreigners, who can access the Internet through 3G networks, than to North Korean residents, most of whom have never gone online. There are only about 1,000 Internet Protocol addresses in North Korea for a population of 25 million, South Korean analysts say. The privileged are also allowed to view a self-contained domestic Intranet that carries state media propaganda and a

limited amount of information pulled and censored from the real Internet.

North Korea didn't immediately release a response to the shutdown. But a commentary carried in state media Tuesday was filled with characteristic rhetoric, criticizing what it called a failed U.S. policy on Pyongyang and comparing the United States to the Roman Empire, which, it said, "was thrown into a dumping ground of history as it collapsed while seeking prosperity through aggression and war."

Last year, North Korea suffered similar brief Internet shutdowns of websites at a time of nuclear tensions with the U.S., South Korea and other countries.

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# Jesus' birthplace grapples with modern traffic challenges

**TIA GOLDENBERG**  
**Associated Press**

**BETHLEHEM, West Bank (AP)**

— It's Christmas season and the little town of Bethlehem is jammed with a big-city problem: Traffic snarling streets everywhere, including around the church marking the spot where tradition says Jesus was born. The city is considering a dramatic solution to the problem — digging a tunnel under Manger Square. Traffic is a mess year-round. It may be the biblical town of grottos and shepherds' fields in the minds of many around the world, but Bethlehem is a modern densely populated town of 28,000 with a dizzying weave of small streets that practically guarantee traffic jams. "Bethlehem is going

through a crisis," said Anton Salman, a city councilor. "We think that the solution to this traffic is to build an underground passage between the two sides of the square." Bethlehem's municipality hopes to eventually build several tunnels around the Palestinian city, where the urban development problems are myriad. Bethlehem is sandwiched on three sides by other towns. From the north and south-east, it is hemmed in by Israel's separation barrier and Jewish settlements, leaving it little choice but to build vertically. It is also a main transit point for drivers between the northern and southern parts of the West Bank, compounding its conges-

tion.

The area around the Nativity Church, built atop the site where Christians believe Jesus was born, is particularly busy, with a mix of tourists swarming the area and cars squeezing across the central Manger Square.

The plan proposes an 80-meter-long (260-foot long) tunnel passing under a narrow two-lane street that crosses Manger Square in front of the Nativity Church. The project would take about two years to complete and

The municipality would need to get a stamp of approval from the U.N.'s cultural agency UNESCO, which has listed the Nativity Church as a world heritage site and would want to ensure its protection. Junaid Sorosh-Wali, an official at UNESCO's Ramallah office, said the agency would study the plan once approached by Palestinian officials and then determine its position. Also, because the tunnel would pass near church grounds, church officials from each of the three denominations that administer the site would need to be involved. Officials at the Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox and Armenian churches did not return messages requesting comment.

And, as is always the case when excavating in the Holy Land, any significant archaeological finds could hamper progress on the project. To circumvent that, the study proposes digging a tunnel no deeper than 11 meters (33 feet). Anything of importance is usually buried further down, according to Mazen Karam, the director of the Bethlehem Development Foundation, a group that helped draft the tunnel study. The city will also need to carve out a compensation plan for the businesses whose trade is disrupted by the tunnel construction.



**Tourists walks and cars drive past the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, West Bank. It's Christmas season and the little town of Bethlehem is jammed with a big-city problem: Traffic snarling streets everywhere, including around the church marking the spot where tradition says Jesus was born. The city is considering a dramatic solution to the problem — digging a tunnel under Manger Square.**

(AP Photo/Nasser Shiyoukhi)

Streets all around face a constant backlog because of traffic in the square, where beeping horns are heard as much as clanging church bells. Even worse, during the holidays, the square is closed for annual events like the Christmas tree lighting and Christmas Eve celebrations, when it is thronged with revelers. That plunges traffic nearby deeper into chaos.

would cost \$4 million to \$5 million, with the Palestinian Authority pledging to foot the bill. If the plan is approved, construction could start next fall. With the tunnel ensuring the flow of traffic, Manger Square would be closed to cars entirely under the plan and turned into a pedestrian expanse. But the tunnel project could run aground before even breaking ground.

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## Christmas 1914: The day even WWI showed humanity

RAF CASERT

Associated Press

PLOEGSTEERT, Belgium (AP)

— With British and German forces separated only by a no-man's land littered with fallen comrades, sounds of a German Christmas carol suddenly drifted across the frigid air: "Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht" ("Silent Night, Holy Night").

Then, during that first Christmas Day in World War I, something magical happened.

Soldiers who had been killing each other by the tens of thousands for months climbed out of their soggy, muddy trenches to seek a shred of humanity amid the horrors of war.

Hands reached out across the narrow divide, presents were exchanged, and in Flanders Fields a century ago, a spontaneous Christmas truce briefly lifted the human spirit.

"Not a shot was fired," Lt. Kurt Zehmisch of the 134th Saxony regiment wrote with amazement in his diary that Christmas.

On the other side of the front line, Pvt. Henry Williamson of the London Rifle Brigade was amazed by the goodwill among his enemies. "Yes, all day Xmas Day & as I write. Marvelous, isn't it?"

Few could be believe their eyes, especially on this mud-caked patch of Belgium and northern France where crimson poppies had long ago shriveled in the cold.

Peace allowed for corpses to be recovered from the fields and given a proper burial. Fighting continued in many other places on the front line. But it was a momentary peace in a war that would last for nearly four more years.

THE BIRDCAGE

Near one of the spots where British and German soldiers fraternized for the unexpected truce, a dark, dirt track veers off the road and meanders into the gloom of the woods.

There, a cleared space has the graves of British soldiers who died on Dec. 19,

where human life was expendable.

"There are a number of local attacks which never make it into the history books, but which all cause a great loss among the troops," said Piet Chielens, curator at the In Flanders' Fields Museum in Ypres, Belgium.

fate of their men." The infamous "Birdcage" was one of those battles that made them realize that strategy wouldn't work. With offensive artillery nearly nonexistent and sometimes so wayward that it also was a threat to its own troops, soldiers were thrown into action where one machine

watch when they suddenly heard a German band in the trenches play songs "common to both nations," they later wrote in an article. "Quite understandably a wave of nostalgia passed over us." At dawn, a German called out, "We good. We no shoot," and the Wrays noted: "And so was born an unofficial armistice." Men walked out, extremely apprehensive at first, many fearing some deadly trick. Then human warmth cracked the freezing cold.

Chielens said that similar scenes occurred at about 30 scattered points across many miles (kilometers) of Belgium. Others happened across the Western Front, which ran from the North Sea to the Swiss border.

Apart from talk in a shared language or merely with hands and kindred eyes, the men exchanged gifts, using everything from bully beef and barrels of beer to small mementos. Some played football.

German soldier Werner Keil scribbled his name on a piece of paper and gave a uniform button to 19-year-old British Cpl. Eric Rowden of the Queen's Westminster Rifles on Christmas Day 1914. "We laughed and joked together, having forgotten war altogether," Rowden wrote.

25TH DECEMBER 1917

All that would change soon enough, and the 1914 truce would not be repeated. Once British Gen. Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien had heard of it on Dec. 27, 1914, he wrote in a confidential memorandum that "this is only illustrative of the apathetic state we are gradually sinking into." He threatened disciplinary action to avoid a repeat. □



Re-enactors, from various living history groups, are dressed in World War I British and German uniforms as they kick around a soccer ball during a re-enactment of the 1914 Christmas Truce in Ploegsteert, Belgium on Saturday, Dec. 20, 2014. During that first Christmas Day in World War I, something magical happened. Soldiers who had been killing each other by the tens of thousands for months climbed out of their muddy trenches to seek a shred of humanity amid the horrors of war. Hands reached out across the narrow divide, presents were exchanged, and in Flanders Fields a century ago, a spontaneous Christmas truce briefly lifted the human spirit.

(AP Photo/Virginia Mayo)

1914, in a battle as gruesome as it was insignificant, their dreams of a peaceful Christmas ignored and buried in the cold mud.

It was a time when swift military movement from Germany across France to the Belgian coast was grinding to a stalemate, leaving hundreds of thousands of casualties behind. For both sides — Germany versus an alliance led by France and Britain — this buried any hope that the war would be over by Christmas.

The result was a form of warfare across trenches

The Dec. 19, 1914 "Birdcage" attack occurred on a bulge of the German line about the size of a football (soccer) field. Allied soldiers also had been thinking about Christmas, but for 80 of them it turned into disaster in an area where a warren of barbed wire had given the German defenders a huge advantage.

Chielens said that during those early days of the war both sides dug into the Flemish soil, with commanders "attacking without deep thought, without deep concern about the

gun could mow down a whole row of approaching men. Some of the bodies found after the attack were so mangled they could no longer be told apart, and today the headstones of several casualties stand shoulder to shoulder to mark that horror.

"WE NO SHOOT"

Little wonder so many soldiers were pining for a glimmer of hope on Christmas Eve.

Frank and Maurice Wray of the London Rifle Brigade settled in to keep



# A window onto evolving holiday traditions in Paris

NICOLA CLARK

© 2014 New York Times

**PARIS** - Crouched precariously amid cascades of fishing line, behind a drum kit dusted with iridescent artificial snow, Jean-Claude Dehix ministered patiently to a rebellious marionette, oblivious to the businessman on the other side of the plate glass window who was taking a last, lazy drag of his morning cigarette.

"Who's the boss here, chérie?" Dehix scowled, as he repeatedly adjusted a filament connecting a cam-driven mechanism in the ceiling of the Christmas display to the wrist of his Lilliputian charge, who appeared determined to strum away at a toy guitar to her own unscripted rhythm.

The puppet - part of a gaggle of mop-headed rockers in tiny Burberry trench coats - is one of around 200 animated figurines installed by Dehix this year across 24 windows on Paris' bustling Boulevard Haussmann, home to two of the city's biggest and oldest department stores, Printemps and



Visitors look at a Burberry Christmas window display at the Printemps department store on Boulevard Haussmann in Paris. The Christmas window displays at Paris's main department stores have bent obligingly with the years, reflecting a creeping — sometimes jarring — fusion of popular and consumer culture.

(Dmitry Kostyukov/The New York Times)

Galleries Lafayette.

Each November to January, Dehix, an elfin 64-year-old, reigns as both impresario and chief troubleshooter of this realm, rising before dawn to inspect every display for broken strings, burned-out bulbs or a derailed train set. Known

affectionately as the Gépétto of the Grands Magasins, Dehix has been Paris' go-to man for holiday windows for more than four decades. "I have staged everything you could imagine," Dehix said of his Christmas displays, which over the years have also

graced Le Bon Marché on the Left Bank and the now-defunct Samaritaine. For a few years in the 1990s, he was responsible for the holiday windows of all four rival stores - a feat that required not just Olympian stamina but the discretion of a palace butler.

Swimming Barbies. Racing ostriches. Tightrope-walking cats. Cabarets of dancing kitchen utensils. The elaborate shows take nearly a year to prepare and draw crowds so large on holiday shopping weekends that the stores long ago installed sidewalk viewing platforms.

Part of a fraternity of artisans that also includes the famed Guignol troupes of the Luxembourg Gardens, Dehix is the current guardian of a Paris tradition that is nearly as old as the city's great shopping meccas, which date back to the Belle Époque.

But while the puppet theaters of the grand parks still hew to a repertoire of classic European fables and fairy tales, the animations of the Christmas windows have bent obligingly with the years, reflecting not just evolutions in technology and tastes but a creeping - sometimes jarring - fusion of popular and consumer culture.

Le Bon Marché, on the

Rue de Sèvres, claims not only to be Europe's oldest department store but also one of the first to recognize the power of an inventive window dressing to seduce shoppers - even when its goods were not overtly on display. The store's first Christmas-themed window, in 1893, depicted a simple scene of ice skaters gliding on a frozen pond in the Bois de Boulogne. (Macy's in New York's Herald Square was said to have pioneered the holiday window tradition in the 1870s.) This year, Dehix dressed the Galleries Lafayette's windows with gangs of neon-colored monster puppets. "I think the monsters say something about the economic situation," said Camilla Turman, 50, an American who recently moved to Paris and was visiting the windows for the first time.

Down the block at Printemps, Dehix's mission is still to entertain. But while the tone remains playful, the windows appear aimed at a different audience.

Printemps, which dispensed with its toy department years ago and was recently bought by a Qatari investment fund, made a deal this year with Burberry, giving the British luxury brand exclusive domain over all of the store's windows for the Christmas season. The arrangement required Dehix to dress his puppets in the company's signature plaid, while his miniature trains meander amid mountains of cashmere scarves and leather handbags. Both Haussmann stores have made similar arrangements with fashion labels in the past. In 2012, Galleries Lafayette's windows were taken over by Louis Vuitton while at Printemps it was Dior. Another year, in collaboration with Chanel, Dehix filled his wintry tableaux with dozens of miniature Karl Lagerfelds. Jérôme Gateau-Slanti, who braved a stinging drizzle with his wife, Mina, and their 2-month-old son, said he had been coming to the Christmas windows on the Boulevard Haussmann since childhood, drawn by the lights and the crowds.

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# Grand Opening of Sidebar Bistro a Fabulous Affair!



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ORANJESTAD - Sidebar is unique in a trendy, sassy and sexy way, it is ready to welcome young and old! Sidebar is the place that serves the best burgers on the island and even has vegetarian food. Dutch owner Niels Stooter, his manager Kim d'Hont and their team are waiting to serve you the diner of your dreams!

Common ground and denominating factor of the guests includes the enjoyment of life, in particular the good things, such as great bistro food, wonder-



is absolutely terrific; they knew from experience, because Sidebar has already been open for two weeks, ironing out any glitches before its Grand Opening. Live music was provided by "Joyride" and till late at night the crowd danced away on popular songs played by the band.



ful drinks and a relaxed, happy atmosphere.

Side Bar is the name of a stylish, hip restaurant on the side of the Renaissance Marketplace; just hop inside, sit at the bar or on the amazing porch and enjoy! The grand opening was a busy event where the friendly staff welcomed all invited guests with champagne and a smile.

One of the guests was overheard remarking: "I was wondering how one could find niche for a new restaurant on Aruba, but I believe Niels has found it with Sidebar. The combination gourmet burger and aged Bourbons is one that we don't have yet on the island. This bistro is going to soar." Others agreed and they added that the food

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## Paseo Herencia Welcomes VCB Just In Time For Holiday Shoe Shopping!



**PALM BEACH** - Still searching for the utterly adorable footwear that will complete your holiday ensembles? Never fear; VCB (Vince Camuto Brands) is here at Paseo Herencia shopping mall in Palm Beach, with a full collection of the freshest

fun footwear to liven up your holiday dresses with timeless but distinctive fashion. VCB not only carries the Vince Camuto signature designer brand, but also Jessica Simpson, Kenneth Cole, and Miss Trish shoes. The shop opened

its doors on Friday evening, December 19, and the shelves are filled with newly arrived inventory. Great accessories such as coordinated jewelry sets and stunning leather bags and formal clutches will provide that polished look that is essential to all fash-



ionistas. The VCB store is open from 10 AM to 11 PM six days a week, so come look over their fabulous

collection; you are sure to find just the shoes you seek for the holidays and beyond! □





## Aruba's Millionth Visitor treated to fajita lunch at MooMba Beach

**PALM BEACH** - They did not know what happened: Nina and Vic from New York and Michigan were the one millionth visitors to the island and festivities burst out as soon as they landed. It was one big party and they were the shining center of it all. As this is the first time that Nina and Vic are

on holiday together and their first time on Aruba, they chose their destination well. Last Wednesday they flew in and they received an invitation to come to lunch at fabulous MooMba Beach, where they had the fajitas - they loved them! Nina and Vic are bowled over by all the attention

and the romantic days that are whizzing past; they love to relax on the fantastic beaches, were crazy about the flamingos on Renaissance Island and they think that Aruba is really and truly 'One Happy Island'. Congratulations and we hope to see you two back many more times. □

## Feast for Maris Stella courtesy of the AWD Restaurant Week



**PALM BEACH** - 'Yum yum' said the 115 clients at home of the elderly Maris Stella last week when they were treated to chicken soup and pea soup with bread and butter. The soup was a donation of the Aru-

ba Wine and Dine (AWD) group and it followed in the wake of the second Restaurant Week, held from August 27 to September 3rd. During the Restaurant Week guests could enjoy a three-course dinner at one of the AWD restaurants, MooMba Beach, Hadicurari, Tango Argentine Grill, Salt & Pepper, Fishes & More and Cafe the Plaza. Once again it was a great success. Part of the proceeds went to a good cause and Maris Stella was the happy recipient of the two delicious soup choices. In the picture AWD's Maurice Blok in the company of Maris Stella director Mrs. Granger and Calixta. □

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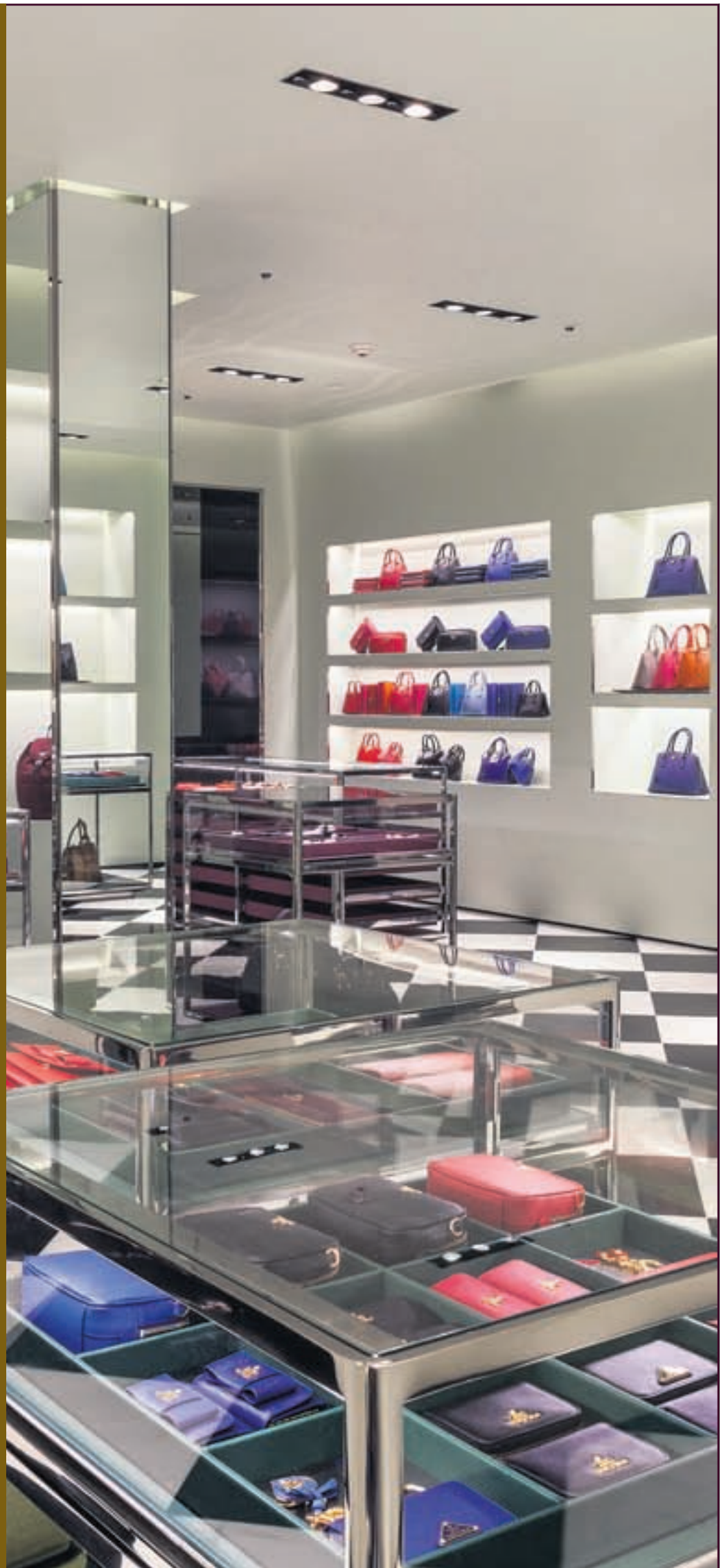


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New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady, left, celebrates with head coach Bill Belichick after defeating the Miami Dolphins 41-13 in an NFL football game Sunday, Dec. 14, 2014, in Foxborough, Mass.

Associated Press  
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# Abby Wambach, Keylor Navas voted top CONCACAF players

**MIAMI (AP)** — American forward Abby Wambach has been voted CONCACAF's Female Player of the Year and Costa Rican goalkeeper Keylor Navas was honored as Male Player of the Year.

The governing body of soccer in North and Central America and the Caribbean said Tuesday that Wambach won after finishing second to U.S. teammate Alex Morgan last year's inaugural awards.

Costa Rican midfielder Shirley Cruz was second and Mexican forward Charlyn Corral third in voting by national team coaches and captains, media and fans. Navas was followed by Costa Rican forward Bryan Ruiz and American goalkeeper Tim Howard.

Howard won his second straight Goalkeeper of the Year award, and Costa Rica's Jorge Luis Pinto was Coach of the Year. Ruiz

won Goal of the Year for his shot against Italy during the World Cup, and Mark Geiger was Referee of the Year after becoming the first American to referee a knockout-rounds match at the World Cup. □

**In this Sept. 13, 2014, file photo United States' forward Abby Wambach (20) walks off the field following an international friendly game with Mexico, in Sandy, Utah.**  
Associated Press





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# Bengals beat Broncos 37-28 to reach playoffs



Cincinnati Bengals running back Jeremy Hill (32) runs 85 yards for a touchdown during the first half of an NFL football game against the Denver Broncos on Monday, Dec. 22, 2014, in Cincinnati.

Associated Press

By JOE KAY

AP Sports Writer

**CINCINNATI (AP)** -- With everything on the line, the Bengals picked off Peyton Manning in the closing minutes - twice, no less - and ran themselves right back into the playoffs. One breakthrough win gave them a chance for another.

Dre Kirkpatrick returned Manning's third interception of the game for a touchdown in the closing minutes on Monday night, completing a rain-soaked rally for a 37-28 victory over the Denver Broncos and a spot in the playoffs. The Bengals (10-4-1) secured a playoff berth for the fourth consecutive season, a franchise record. They'll play in Pittsburgh next Sunday night, with the winner taking the AFC North title. And then, Cincinnati will get yet another chance to break one of the longest playoff droughts in NFL history - no postseason victory since the 1990 season. First, they go to Pittsburgh to determine when and where they'll play.

"Well, we have another hump day next week," coach Marvin Lewis said.

Kirkpatrick's 30-yard return with 2:41 left capped

a game of big plays - long runs, big kick returns and two interceptions run back for scores. With 67 seconds left, Kirkpatrick picked off Manning again to clinch it.

"I'm not saying I knew he was going to do that," Kirkpatrick said. "The guy changes plays. He's a first-ballot Hall of Famer. When he came back to my side, I was waiting for the ball."

Manning rallied the Broncos (11-4) to three touchdowns in the third quarter and a lead, but finished with a season-high four interceptions. The loss handed New England home-field advantage throughout the playoffs.

"I shouldn't have thrown it," said Manning, who was 28 of 44 for 311 yards with two touchdowns. "Four interceptions, you're not going to beat many good football teams."

The AFC West champions failed in their attempt to clinch a first-round bye and came away with more questions about Manning, who was limited in practice during the week because of a strained right thigh.

Denver scored 21 points in the third quarter, with Manning throwing a pair of touchdowns to Emmanuel

Sanders. With a chance to pull off his 51st game-winning drive in a heavy rain, Manning threw a sideline pass directly to Kirkpatrick, who ran it back untouched. Manning had been 8-0 career against the Bengals with 20 touchdown passes and only five interceptions. He nearly matched that total in one game.

Demaryius Thomas had seven catches for 115 yards, setting a club record with his

ninth 100-yard game of the season. Andy Dalton settled down after a huge early mistake - an overthrown pass that Aqib Talib returned for a touchdown - and rookie Jeremy Hill led a dominating running game that finished with 207 yards overall. Hill had an 85-yard touchdown run with 147 overall, going over 1,000 for the season.

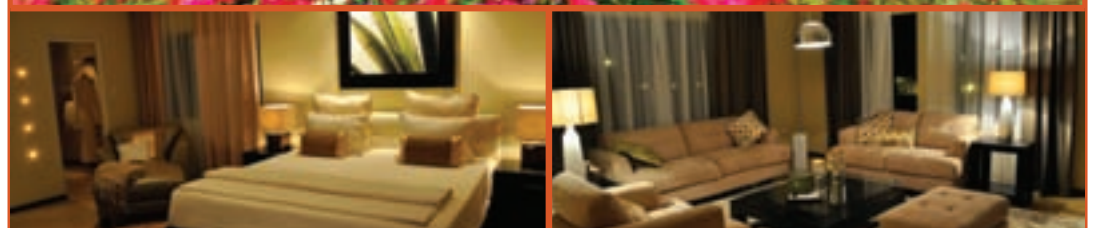
Hill played a starring role in the Bengals' playoff drive.

"I know a lot of guys are

never fortunate enough to make the playoffs," said Hill, a second-round pick from LSU. "In college, I wanted to play for a national championship but never got the chance." The Monday night win was a breakthrough for the Bengals, who had been blown out in their two prime-time games this season and came in 18-41 all-time at night. They have one more left in Pittsburgh next Sunday. □



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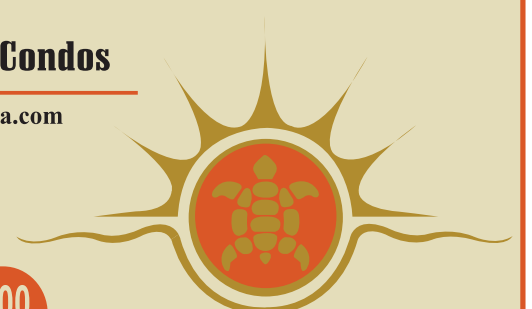
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### NHL Capsules

## Holtby, Capitals stay hot, edge Senators 2-1

**The Associated Press**  
**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Braden Holtby made 38 saves, Jay Beagle and Nicklas Backstrom scored second-period goals, and the Washington Capitals extended their point streak to nine games with a 2-1 win over the Ottawa Senators on Monday night. Washington has won three in a row and is 7-0-2 in its past nine games. Holtby has been in net for all of them. Backstrom broke a 1-1 tie with 35 seconds left in the second period during

a power play. He has 11 goals this season, including six in his last five games. Beagle made it 1-0 at 13:59. Mike Green assisted on both Capitals goals. Erik Condra scored his third goal of the season to tie it 1-1 in the second period, and Craig Anderson stopped 21 shots for Ottawa. The Senators are 3-3-1 since Dave Cameron replaced Paul MacLean as head coach. **PREDATORS 5, BLUE JACKETS 1**  
**COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)** —

Craig Smith scored two goals, Pekka Rinne made 30 saves to earn his NHL-leading 22nd win, and Nashville routed Columbus. Colin Wilson had a goal and an assist, and Seth Jones and Mike Fisher also scored for Nashville, which has won five of six. Victor Bartley added two assists. Rookie Alexander Wennberg scored his first NHL goal late in the third period to spoil Rinne's shut-out bid. Columbus had its nine-game point streak (8-0-1) snapped, losing for the first time in December. □



Washington Capitals defenseman Mike Green (52), center Brooks Laich (21) and center Jay Beagle, right, celebrate Beagle's goal in the second period of an NHL hockey game against the Ottawa Senators, Monday, Dec. 22, 2014, in Washington. Associated Press

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# Patriots, Spurs follow similar paths to success

HOWARD ULMAN

AP Sports Writer

FOXBOROUGH, Massachusetts (AP) —

Tom Brady and the New England Patriots are aiming for their fourth Super Bowl title.

Tim Duncan and the San Antonio Spurs are going for their sixth NBA championship.

Different sports. Similar dynasties.

"They're built and designed culturally very similarly," said Scott Pioli, head of the Patriots player personnel department during the championship seasons, "knowing who the leader is and making sure that people are going to fit in with what the leadership wants and how they want to do it."

Stability at the top is crucial to both teams' success.

Brady is in his 15th season, Duncan his 18th. They're humble superstars who set a team-first example.

Bill Belichick has coached the Patriots to 11 division titles in the last 12 seasons and has home-field advantage throughout the AFC playoffs for the fourth time in five years. Gregg Popovich has led the Spurs to the playoffs in 17 of his 18 full seasons as coach.

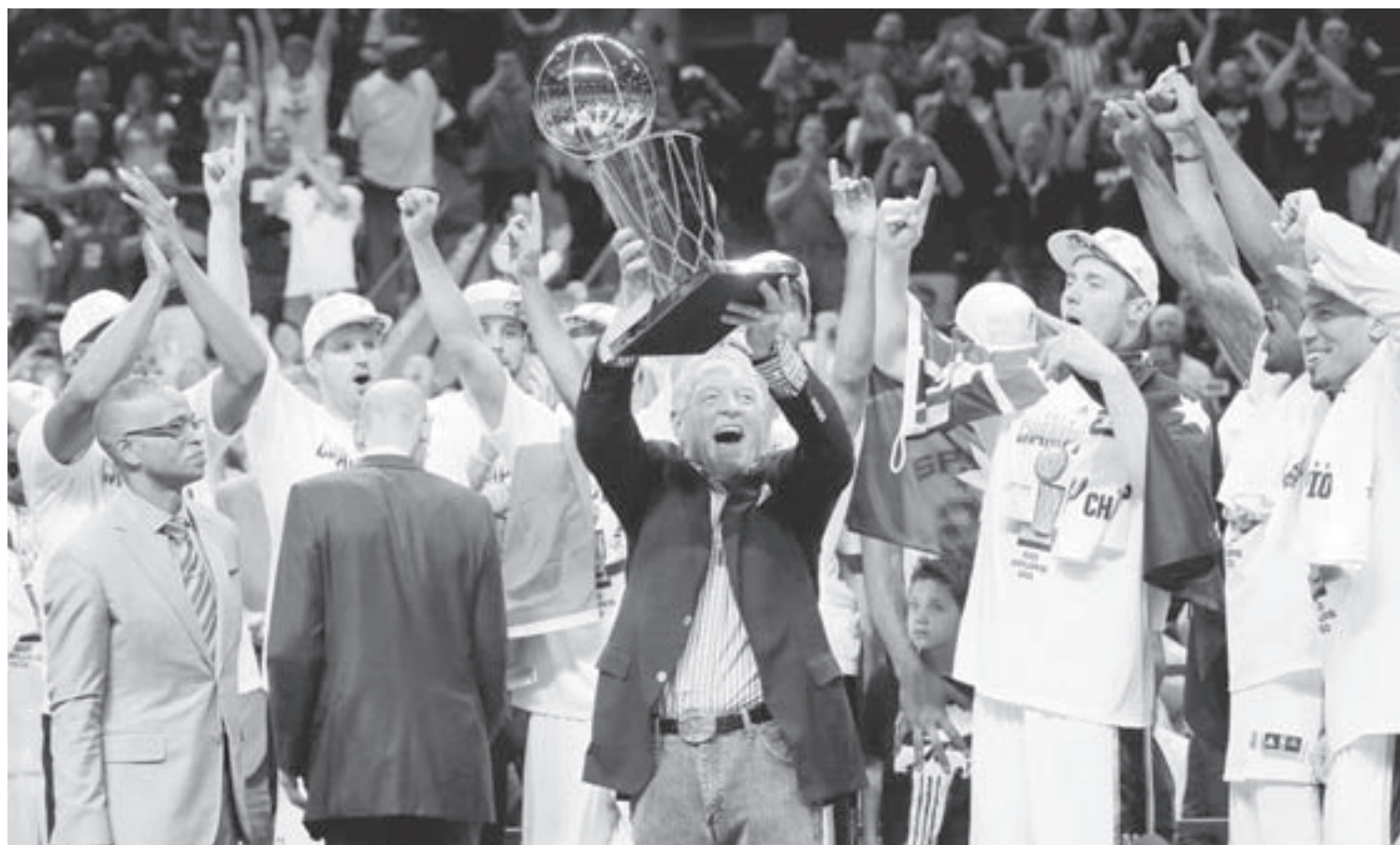
Longtime owners Robert Kraft and Peter Holt have made it clear who has authority — Belichick on the Patriots, Popovich and general manager R.C. Buford on the Spurs.

And there's mutual admiration.

"Any successful franchise has good synergy between ownership, management and coaches," Popovich said. The Patriots "obviously have that. It's a fantastic organization."

Belichick returned the compliment.

"I love the way he coach-



In this June 15, 2014, file photo, San Antonio Spurs owner Peter Holt holds up the Larry O'Brien NBA Championship Trophy after Game 5 of the NBA basketball finals against the Miami Heat in San Antonio.

Associated Press

es that team," the Patriots leader said. "I admire it." Pioli is very familiar with both clubs.

He was with the Patriots from 2000-08, and has had many discussions about team building with Buford, a close friend.

"Having a locker room that is dominated by the right kind of people and the right makeup is just as important as talent if you want to sustain championship level football or basketball," said Pioli, now assistant general manager of the Atlanta Falcons. "The key (was) to make sure that we went out and got players that love and were willing to commit to football the way that the head coach would. And that's what San Antonio does."

Belichick and Popovich are the longest serving active coaches in their leagues. They demand precision

in practices and games, stress team over individual success, and treat their stars like their other players. When they mess up, Brady and Duncan hear about it.

"The Spurs and the Patriots have a collection of guys that are over themselves," said Los Angeles Clippers coach Doc Rivers, who became friendly with Belichick while coaching the Boston Celtics. "Pop talks about that all the time, and so does Belichick: 'I need guys to be over themselves and about the team.'"

Duncan passes to Tony Parker for baskets. Brady throws to Rob Gronkowski for touchdowns.

"When you have a superstar player that is humble and buys in and is willing to do what's best for the team, that sets the tone for the rest of the team," Patriots special teams star Matthew Slater said. "Looking

at Tim Duncan from afar, you definitely see that. And then being in the locker room with Thomas, it's the same thing."

That constant excellence has come in an era when parity and salary caps mitigate against it.

The Patriots won Super Bowls in the 2001, 2003 and 2004 seasons. Since Brady became a starter in 2001, they have the best record in the four major American pro sports leagues with the Spurs second.

The Spurs won NBA titles in 1999, 2003, 2005, 2007 and 2014. Since Duncan arrived in 1997, they're first in winning percentage with the Patriots second.

"Your success is very much dependent on the person next to you, and their ability and dependability in those two sports," Pioli said. "It's about the players being able to respond to the

great leader."

Both organizations have found veterans who could contribute, veterans who were tough and low maintenance. But just because Patriots assistant coaches learned from the master, success didn't follow them — Romeo Crennel, Eric Mangini, Josh McDaniels — when they became NFL head coaches.

So why does New England keep winning?

"That comes down to three people," Slater said. "Mr. Kraft, coach Belichick, and Tom Brady."

The Spurs have a similar foundation.

"What is the goal? Do you want to win just one championship or do you want to sustain it?" Pioli asked. "When your core chemistry is hitting on all cylinders, that's when you have a chance to win championships."



# Christmas a rite of passage for Wizards, Pierce

**TIM REYNOLDS**

**AP Basketball Writer**

**MIAMI (AP)** — For the third straight year, Paul Pierce will awaken to Christmas in New York.

The feeling never gets old. Playing on Christmas Day, when fans seem to begin paying more attention to NBA as American football winds down, is still a big deal to players. Pierce is trying to make sure that the Washington Wizards understand the significance.

Of the 14 players in the Washington squad, eight have never played in a Christmas game. Pierce has played in five, not including two others that he missed because of injury.

"By Christmas, you should know what type of team you are," Pierce said. "You should have an identity. Around Christmas, this is the time you should be showing everybody, 'This is who we are.' You're in it or you're out of it. This the time for the rest of the league, the rest of the world to find out, this is who we are."

Here's who the Wizards



**Washington Wizards forward Paul Pierce (34) disputes a foul call in the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Los Angeles Clippers, Friday, Dec. 12, 2014, in Washington.**

**Associated Press**

are: A contender in the Eastern Conference.

Off to a 19-7 start, the Wizards are proving Pierce made the right decision when he raised eyebrows this past summer by deciding to move to Washington. They're on pace for their best season in 30 years,

are led by a point guard worthy of some MVP buzz in John Wall, and have no one among the league's top 25 scorers yet have six players averaging double figures.

And now for the first time since 2008, the Wizards get to play on the league's

showcase day.

"A lot of times, I'm opening presents with my kids the day before because I'm gone on Christmas," said Pierce, who visited New York on Dec. 25 in 2012, and was part of a home game with Brooklyn on the holiday last year.

"Out of six or seven Christmas games, I've played at home one time. We've been on the road pretty much the whole time."

"Sometimes you get to be there and open presents with your kids, and enjoy the day with them. But they get to watch Daddy on TV and know I'll be coming home that night, so it's fun."

Other players who also changed addresses this past offseason will also be playing on Christmas, including LeBron James and Kevin Love with the Cleveland Cavaliers, and Pau Gasol with the Chicago Bulls. And for the league's biggest stars, playing is as annual an American rite as caroling and egg nog.

If he plays on Thursday, Kobe Bryant of the Los Angeles Lakers will be taking the court on Christmas for the 16th time — just 17 points shy of getting to 400 on the holiday. Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade is No. 2 on the active Christmas-scoring list, with 227 points in nine appearances. □



**Dallas Mavericks guard Rajon Rondo (9) shoots in front of Atlanta Hawks guard Shelvin Mack (8) during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, Dec. 22, 2014, in Dallas.**

**Associated Press**

**The Associated Press**

**SAN ANTONIO (AP)** — Tony Parker scored 26 points in his return from a five-game absence, igniting the San Antonio Spurs to a season-high 37 assists and a 125-118 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers on Monday night.

San Antonio shot a season-high 64 percent from the field in snapping a four-

game skid.

Tim Duncan had 21 points and 12 rebounds, Boris Diaw scored 23 points and Manu Ginobili had 19 points and 10 assists for the Spurs (18-11), who had lost three straight home games in overtime.

Chris Paul had 25 points and nine assists, Blake Griffin added 22 points and J.J. Redick had 21 for the

Clippers (19-9), who have lost four straight to San Antonio.

Parker showed no lingering effects from a strained left hamstring that kept him out of eight of the past nine games.

**BULLS 129, RAPTORS 120**  
**CHICAGO (AP)** — Derrick Rose scored 29 points, Jimmy Butler added 27 points and 11 rebounds, and Chicago snapped Toronto's six-game winning streak.

Rose scored 15 of the Bulls' franchise-record 49 points in the fourth quarter.

Chicago, who has won three straight, got Rose and Taj Gibson back after each missed two games. Rose was ill and Gibson was out with an ankle injury.

Kyle Lowry scored 34 points and Jonas Valanciunas finished with 20 for Toronto,

which led by 12 in the third quarter. Lowry scored 18 points in the fourth.

**ROCKETS 110, TRAIL BLAZERS 95**

**HOUSTON (AP)** — James Harden scored a season-high 44 points to help Houston cruise past Portland and snap a two-game skid. The Trail Blazers were without leading scorer and rebounder LaMarcus Aldridge, who missed the game with an upper-respiratory illness, and had their five-game winning streak snapped.

Harden had 31 in the first half to help the Rockets erase an early eight-point deficit and take a 20-point halftime lead. It was Harden's NBA-leading third 40-point game this season, with all of them coming this month.

Damian Lillard led Portland

with 18 points and CJ McCollum added 17.

**HORNETS 110, NUGGETS 82**  
**CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)** — Al Jefferson scored 22 points, Kemba Walker added 18 points and nine assists, and Charlotte extended its winning streak to a season-high three games.

Rookie P.J. Hairston recorded his first career double-double with 10 points and 10 rebounds.

Jefferson and Walker combined to shoot 15 of 25 from the field and didn't play in the fourth quarter with the game well in hand.

Charlotte improved to 3-0 since Gerald Henderson replaced the injured Lance Stephenson in the starting lineup. Stephenson, who has been the subject of trade rumors, is out at least one more game with a groin injury. □

## NBA Capsules

### Parker returns, leads Spurs past Clippers, 125-118



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# Drones become popular gifts this holiday

By MAE ANDERSON  
AP Technology Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** -- Santa's sleigh isn't the only thing flying this holiday season.

Drones - flying devices that often carry cameras and can be navigated remotely by smartphones or controllers - have "taken off" as popular gifts as novices have become just as interested in the devices as serious hobbyists. The demand has grown as the industry and government are working together to address safety concerns.

Best Buy expanded its selection from one last year to eight different models in stores and five more online because of rising demand. BHPPhoto.com now offers 140-plus models online that range from \$50.99 to \$6500. And Amazon says the Parrot's \$160 MiniDrone Rolling Spider and DJI's Phantom 2 Vision+ Quadcopter, which costs about \$1,000, have been "popular sellers."

Michael Perry, spokesman for DJI, which makes the popular Phantom 2 Vision+ and new Inspire models, said demand for drones has moved "pretty dramatically out of being a pretty niche field into more of a consumer electronics field."

Will Leverett, 40, from Austin, Texas, bought himself the DJI Phantom 2, and has been using it to take aerial shots of his ranch in Central Texas.

Leverett spent \$2,700 on the drone and a camera and image stabilizer that goes with it.

"Being able to see the ranch from the air is something that my late dad always dreamed about," said Leverett, which also used his drone to take shots at the World Cup in



In this Nov. 7, 2014 file photo, pilot Maxime Tran Quan Tien guides his Parrot Bebop drone during a presentation to the press in Paris. Associated Press

Brazil. "Now this technology is literally at Best Buy."

Leverett said he was planning to buy DJI's Inspire for his brother as a Christmas present. It's a drone that can be controlled by two people - one person being the pilot and the other operating the camera - for \$3,500.

"It will blow anybody's mind as soon as they get behind the controllers," he said. "Getting up there and seeing a bird's eye view for the first time is inspiring. You see how beautiful everything is from just 150 feet up."

On the more casual side of the sector, Victoria Blevins, 37, from Woodbridge, Virginia, is buying a Parrot 2.0 drone copter that retails for \$299 for her teenage son.

Her son likes aeronautical engineering, electronics and computers so she considers the drone "his first step in learning flight patterns."

But Blevins did say, though, that safety will be a focus when her son using the device. "He won't be using it unsupervised," Blevins said. Indeed, safety concerns have grown with the popularity of drones.

In Belgrade in October, a drone carrying a banner over a soccer field ignited an on-field brawl. A plane in London's Heathrow airport had a near-miss with a drone in December. And in October an Oregon man pleaded guilty to violating a ban on drones in national parks by flying a one

near bison and over Yellowstone's Midway Geyser Basin.

Drone makers say they have put safety measures in place to prevent accident. All drones are recommended for use in large open areas, not near crowded spaces.

DJI said its latest drones have an automatically capped height of 400 feet, even though technically it could go up to 1200 feet. Geosensors also won't let the drones fly close to any major airports. Parrot, which makes the \$500 BeBop drone, also ensures drones do not go above 400 feet.

All three of the biggest personal drone makers - DJI, Parrot and 3D Robotics -

have formed a coalition to lobby the FAA to help develop standards for personal drone use.

Additionally, on Monday, drone industry officials said they are teaming up with the U.S. government and model aircraft hobbyists to launch a safety campaign. The campaign includes a website - <http://www.knowbeforeyoufly.com> - which advises both drone operators of FAA regulations and how to fly their unmanned aircraft safely. The industry also said it plans to distribute safety pamphlets at industry events and work with drone manufacturers to make sure safety information is enclosed inside the packaging of new drones. □



# Dow tops 18,000; US economy surges

**ALEX VEIGA**  
AP Business Writer

In a year full of market milestones, Wall Street crushed a couple more Friday, lifting the Dow Jones industrial average past the 18,000-point mark for the first time and delivering the Standard & Poor's 500 index its second record-high close in two days.

Investors welcomed the latest encouraging news on the economy as the government said the U.S. grew at the fastest pace in more than a decade in the third quarter. The economic report card raised expectations for greater demand for fuel, driving oil prices higher and giving some respite to energy stocks, which have been hammered in concert with the slide in oil prices this

seas, geopolitical troubles and other concerns, investors have repeatedly bet on the U.S. economy and corporate earnings growth this year, pushing stock prices higher.

The market has been going steadily higher for the last two weeks after hitting a recent low of 17,069 on Dec. 16 as traders worried about plunging oil prices and a sharp drop in Russia's currency. Investors have been encouraged by signs of strength in the U.S. economy and reassurances that the Federal Reserve won't raise interest rates soon. Those trends bode well for the bull market run, which is on track to mark its sixth year in March.

And yet, the indexes' new heights have made the

we don't see any of those on the horizon."

All told, the Dow gained 64.73 points to 18,024.17. That's up 0.4 percent from its previous record close on Monday. The latest close is the Dow's second 1,000-point milestone this year after closing above 17,000 for the first time in July. The S&P 500 rose 3.63 points to 2,082.17. That's a gain of 0.2 percent from its own all-time recorded a day earlier. The Nasdaq composite fell 16 points, or 0.3 percent, to 4,765.42.

All told, the S&P 500 is up 12.7 percent this year, while the Dow has gained 8.7 percent. The Dow, which has just 30 stocks, has been held back by a slump in Chevron as the price of oil collapsed and by a 14 percent drop in



**Specialist Peter Giacchi calls out prices during the IPO of Foresight Energy on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. A strong U.S. economy helped propel the stock market higher for a fifth-straight year in 2014.**  
(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

## Wall Street: Investors expecting higher stocks, turbulence in 2015

**KEN SWEET**  
AP Business Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Can the U.S. hold everyone else above water? That is the question investors are asking as Wall Street heads into 2015.

A strong U.S. economy helped propel the stock market higher in 2014, continuing a bull market that is on pace to celebrate its sixth birthday in March. On more than one occasion, investors dumped stocks following geopolitical flare-ups and concerns about the global economy, only to jump back in when an economic report or results from a big company suggested the U.S. economy was still resilient.

This bull market may be slowing down, but it still has had a remarkable run. The Standard & Poor's 500 index has more than tripled from its March 2009 low.

Wall Street strategists, who typically are bullish on the U.S. stock market, expect the advance to continue into 2015.

2014 has been a solid year for stocks, and Wall Street forecasters expect more of the same next year. The S&P 500 index is on track to return 14 percent in 2014 including dividends, a healthy gain but well below the 2013 return of 32 percent. Because the U.S. economy should continue to improve, stocks are likely to march higher in 2015, strategists say. On average, strategists see the S&P 500 up roughly 6 to 8 percent, with most of the gains coming from large multi-

national companies that would benefit greatly from an improving U.S. economy. Although there are risks that U.S.-based companies might see international sales slow because of weakness in Europe and Asia, strategists believe U.S. growth will make up for that drag.

While U.S.-based companies do roughly half their sales outside the country, profits are still largely driven by the American economy.

The U.S. economy is expected to grow 3.1 percent in 2015, accelerating from the 2.2 percent growth it is expected to have this year. This is a mature bull market, strategists say, so stock prices are relatively high and the possibility for volatility even higher. Investors are paying roughly \$17.50 for every dollar of earnings companies in the S&P 500 generate, the most they've paid for stocks since 2010. These high valuations could make investors more nervous about holding stocks if prices continue to climb. The stock market fell nearly 10 percent in October, its first major sell-off since 2011. "Expect more pullbacks or corrections," says Liz Ann Sonders, chief market strategist for Charles Schwab.

**Slow rate hikes**  
For several years, the Federal Reserve had been buying bonds to both keep interest rates low and boost stock prices. The program, known as quantitative easing, was designed to make bonds seem more expensive than stocks. □



**An electronic display shows the Dow Jones Industrial Average above 18,000 on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange in New York, Tuesday, Dec. 23, 2014. U.S. stocks pushed further into record territory on Tuesday as the Dow Jones industrial average crossed past the 18,000-point mark for the first time.**  
(AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

year. The rally gave the Dow and the S&P 500 their fifth straight gain. The indexes have recovered the last of the ground they lost in an early-December slump. It also marked the 51st all-time high for the S&P 500 and the 36th for the Dow this year, according to S&P Dow Jones Indices.

"This is going to end up being a bit better of a year for stocks and bonds than most people thought coming in," said Bob Doll, chief equity strategist at Nuveen Asset Management. "The economy caught some steam and it's able to stand up with its own two feet."

Despite weak growth over-

market more expensive. At their current price, investors are paying \$17.60 for every \$1 in earnings for companies in the S&P 500. That's above the long-term average price-to-earnings ratio of \$16.

Even so, stocks are not overvalued, said Cameron Hinds, regional chief investment officer at Wells Fargo Private Bank.

"You have to understand that U.S. economic output is at an all-time high and corporate profits are at an all-time high," Hinds said. "Bull markets typically don't die purely of old age, they tend to die of recessions and overvaluation and perhaps policy mistakes, and

IBM. The market started off Tuesday's record run early in the day, with the Dow and the S&P opening slightly higher. Shortly after, the Dow topped 18,000 points for the first time, while the S&P extended beyond the all-time high from the day before. The Nasdaq trailed the other two indexes, weighed down by a broad slide in biotech stocks.

Express Scripts, the nation's largest pharmacy benefits manager, is putting pressure on drugmakers like Gilead Sciences and others to lower prices. Gilead shed \$3.45, or 3.7 percent, to \$89.45. Express Scripts rose \$3.55, or 4.3 percent, to \$85.88. □



## The Gift of Education



**NICHOLAS KRISTOF**  
© 2014 New York Times

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti - Most of us in Nikenson Romage's situation would have given up. His dad died when he was 3, and his mom - a food vendor - often couldn't afford his school fees. So he got kicked out of school occasionally for non-payment, a humiliating ordeal that leads some kids to drop out forever.

But Nikenson would sneak back onto the school grounds and stand outside the open classroom windows to eavesdrop, day after day. He studied on his own, keeping pace so that when his mom scraped together a few dollars, he could re-enter class - until the next time school fees were due.

Against all odds, Nikenson graduated from high school this year, first in his class, with straight A's, and was elected class president by his peers. Nikenson is a reminder of the basic aphorism of life today: talent is universal, but opportunity is not. Fortunately, with the help of American donors, Nikenson is now receiving a university education that will propel him into Haiti's elite. He's a beneficiary of a program started by Conor Bohan, a young American who was teaching in a Haitian high school and distressed that a top student in the school couldn't afford \$30 to register for college. He sacrificed his savings to send her to college (she's now a doctor). Then he hit up family and friends to help other Haitians go to college. The program grew and became the Haitian Education and Leadership Program, or HELP, sending hundreds of young men and women to Haitian universities.

"Education works," Bohan said simply. "Good education works for everybody, everywhere. It worked for you, for me, and it works for Haitians."

Tackling global poverty is harder than it seems, and Haiti is a case in point. Its streets are full of white SUVs ferrying around aid workers, yet it remains the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.

Over time, I've concluded that education may be the single best way to help people help themselves - whether in America or abroad. Yet, as a nation, we underinvest in education, both domestically and overseas. So, in this holiday season, I'd suggest a moment to raise a

glass and celebrate those who spread the transformative gift of education.

A few days ago, we saw the news of the horrific Pakistani Taliban attack on a school in Peshawar. The Taliban attacks schools because it understands that education corrodes extremism; I wish we would absorb that lesson as well. In his first presidential campaign, President Barack Obama spoke of starting a global education fund, but he seems to have forgotten the idea. I wish he would revive it!

I'm particularly impressed by the HELP model in part because of a nifty way to make the program sustainable: Winners commit to giving back 15 percent of their incomes for their first nine years in their jobs. That's a hefty sum: HELP graduates earn an average of \$15,000 a year, compared with per capita income in Haiti of a bit more than \$800, and university tuition is very cheap by American standards.

One brilliant new high school graduate, Elice Oreste, was working as an apprentice carpenter in a remote village and earning just \$50 a month. HELP sent him to college to study industrial engineering, and he just graduated - and promptly found a job at a European company as a maintenance engineer for \$1,500 a month.

"The only difference is his access to education," Bohan notes.

A HELP scholarship is also transforming the trajectory of Anne Martine Augustin, an orphan who is studying electrical engineering. She designed an app for disaster readiness in Haiti that won a World Bank programming competition.

The greatest unexploited resource in poor countries isn't oil or gold; it's people like her. So, with the backing of mostly American donors, HELP scours the country for brilliant but impoverished high school graduates. Once selected, the students also get coaching in English, computer use, and leadership and public service. The aim is to nurture an elite corps of change-makers to build up the country.

"Nobody knows Haiti better than Haitians," says Leonardo Charles, chosen for a scholarship after he scored in the top five in nationwide exams while also serving as high school class president and student newspaper editor "If there is to be change, it will be from us."

So I raise my egg nog to toast all those promoting education at home and abroad, thereby spreading opportunity. It's the updated version of giving a person a fishing pole rather than a fish.

At a party, a Western aid worker once asked Bohan whether HELP graduates would be able to find jobs.

"Look around this room," Bohan says he replied. "I can replace every white person in this room with a Haitian." □



## The Subtle Sensations of Faith



**DAVID BROOKS**  
© 2014 New York Times

With Hanukkah coming to an end, Christmas days away, and people taking time off work, we are in a season of quickened faith. When you watch people exercise that faith, whether lighting candles or attending midnight Mass, the first thing you see is how surprising it is. You'd think faith would be a simple holding of belief, or a confidence in things unseen, but, in real life, faith is unpredictable and ever-changing.

It begins, for many people, with an elusive experience of wonder and mystery. The best modern book on belief is "My Bright Abyss" by my Yale colleague, Christian Wiman. In it, he writes, "When I hear people say they have no religious impulse whatsoever ... I always want to respond: Really? You have never felt overwhelmed by, and in some way inadequate to, an experience in your life, have never felt something in yourself staking a claim beyond yourself, some wordless mystery straining through word to reach you? Never?"

Most believers seem to have had these magical moments of wonder and clearest consciousness, which suggested a dimension of existence beyond the everyday. Maybe it happened during childbirth, with music, in nature, in love or pain, or during a moment of overwhelming gratitude and exaltation.

These glimmering experiences are not in themselves faith, but they are the seed of faith. As Wiman writes, "Religion is not made of these moments; religion is the means of making these moments part of your life rather than merely radical intrusions so foreign and perhaps even fearsome that you can't even acknowledge their existence afterward. Religion is what you do with these moments of over-mastery in your life."

These moments provide an intimation of ethical perfection and merciful love. They arouse a longing within many people to integrate that glimpsed eternal goodness into their practical lives. This longing is faith. It's not one emotion because it encompasses so many emotions. It's not one idea because it contains contradictory ideas. It's a state of motivation, a desire to reunite with that glimpsed moral beauty and incorporate it into everyday living.

It's a hard process. After the transcendent glimpses, people forget. Their spirits go dry and they doubt anything ever happened. But believers try, as Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel put it, to stay faithful to those events. They assent to some spiritual element they still sense planted in themselves.

The process of faith, of bringing moments of intense inward understanding into the ballyhoo of life, seems to involve a lot of reading and talking - as people try to make sense of who God is and how holiness should be lived out. Even if you tell people you are merely writing a column on faith, they begin recommending books to you by the dozen. Religion may begin with experiences beyond reason, but faith relies on reason.

In his famous fourth footnote in "Halakhic Man," Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik writes, "The individual who frees himself from the rational principle and who casts off the yoke of objective thought will in the end turn de-

structive and lay waste the entire created order. Therefore, it is preferable that religion should ally itself with the forces of clear, logical cognition, as uniquely exemplified in the scientific method, even though at times the two might clash with one another."

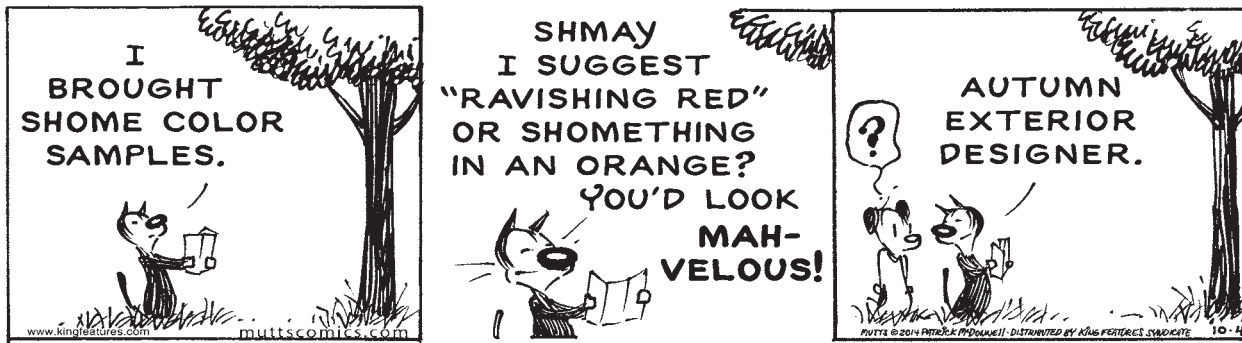
Or as Wiman puts it more elegantly: "Faith cannot save you from the claims of reason, except insofar as it preserves and protects that wonderful, terrible time when reason, if only for a moment, lost its claim on you."

All this discerning and talking leads to the main business of faith: living attentively every day. The faithful are trying to live in ways their creator loves. They are trying to turn moments of spontaneous consciousness into an ethos of strict conscience. They are using effervescent sensations of holiness to inspire concrete habits, moral practices and practical ways of living well. Marx thought that religion was the opiate of the masses, but Soloveitchik argues that, on the contrary, this business of living out a faith is complex and arduous: "The pangs of searching and groping, the tortures of spiritual crises and exhausting treks of the soul purify and sanctify man, cleanse his thoughts, and purge them of the husks of superficiality and the dross of vulgarity. Out of these torments there emerges a new understanding of the world, a powerful spiritual enthusiasm that shakes the very foundations of man's existence."

Insecure believers sometimes cling to a rigid and simplistic faith. But confident believers are willing to face their dry spells, doubts, and evolution. Faith as practiced by such people is change. It is restless, growing. It's not right and wrong that changes, but their spiritual state and their daily practice. As the longings grow richer, life does, too. As Wiman notes, "To be truly alive is to feel one's ultimate existence within one's daily existence." □



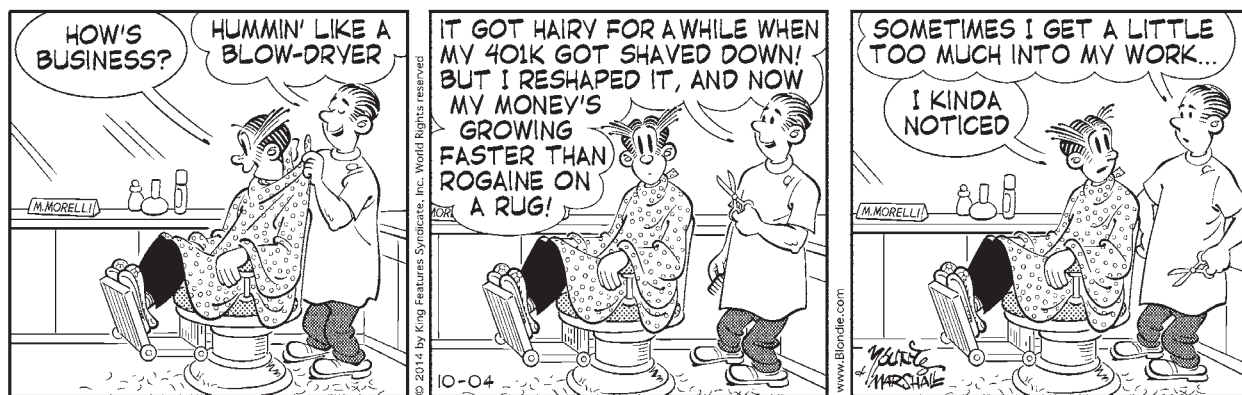
## Mutts



## 6 Chix



## Blondie



## Mother Goose & Grimm



## Baby Blues



## Zits



## Conceptis Sudoku

			2		4	
	6		8			7
			3	1	2	
	9				6	
3		2			9	4
		6				8
		3	7	5		
1				4		9
	7			6		

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

10/04

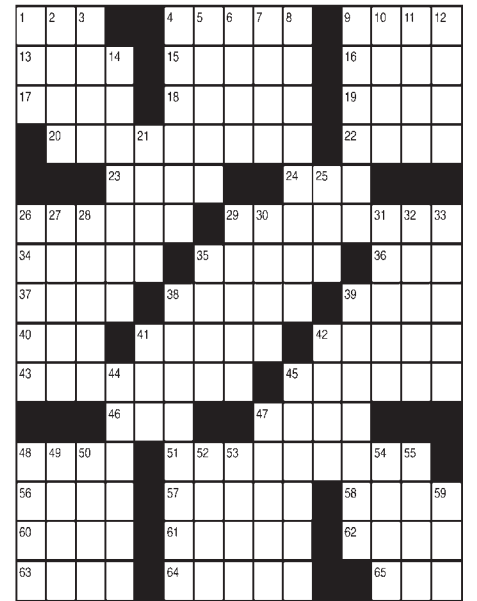
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

5	8	9	7	6	2	4	1	3
1	6	7	3	9	4	5	2	8
4	3	2	1	5	8	7	9	6
2	4	6	9	8	1	3	7	5
3	5	8	4	2	7	1	6	9
9	7	1	5	3	6	2	8	4
7	1	3	8	4	9	6	5	2
6	9	4	2	7	5	8	3	1
8	2	5	6	1	3	9	4	7

## ACROSS

- Tavern
- oneself;
- worked steadily
- Wander about
- Runs up a tab
- Proverb
- Disassemble
- away;
- departed
- Ladder steps
- Celebrity
- Certainly
- Partial amount
- Blockhead
- Actor Wallach
- Very smart
- Yelled in horror
- Publicized
- Snapshot
- tight leash;
- very restrained
- reflux;
- heartburn
- Precious ones
- Throw
- out a living;
- get by
- Listened to
- Trial setting
- Devoted follower
- Felt; perceived
- Spring month; abbr.
- Isn't able to
- Messy person
- Exciting undertaking
- Hired vehicle
- box; larynx
- Deteriorates
- Microwave, e.g.
- Mr. Presley
- "That meal sounds awful!"
- Skillets
- Worked at a blackjack table
- Your, biblically



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

10/4/14

## Friday's Puzzle Solved

CHOIR	SHAM	ACME
HEDGE	PERU	RAIL
ARENA	REEF	KIND
RESIDUAL	FRANCE	
	TINT	PIONEER
MELEES	SENDS	
AYE	REAPS	EAGLE
YEAR	RIOTS	SOIL
ASKEW	RUSES	RAM
	VALET	LINERS
ALTERED	FLEE	
REARMS	PASSWORD	
DALE	STAB	TEPEE
OVEN	EARL	ASIAN
REST	NUKE	STEMS

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10/4/14

## DOWN

- and arrow;
- Cupid's items
- Floored
- City in Nevada
- To some degree
- Grown-up
- Walking stick
- Benedict;
- fancy breakfast
- Baked Alaska
- and apple pie
- Largest nation
- Climb ;
- Eve's mate
- Additional amount
- Pored over
- James ; 007
- Name for 13
- poopes
- Cried like a sheep
- Actress and TV host ; Lake
- Zodiac sign
- Be generous
- Drape puller
- Complains
- Follow as a result of
- Passé
- Ring out
- Very evil

- 100 years
- Joint nearest the waist
- Express pent-up frustration
- Log homes
- Least wild
- B. DeMille
- Go no further
- Molten rock
- Plow animals
- Mete out
- Paper towel brand
- Overwhelming defeat
- Engrave
- Heaven above



## Wesley Methodist Church to host Christmas Eve Service on Dec. 24

**ORANJESTAD** - The Wesley Methodist Church on Long Fellowstraat 3, Oranjestad will be having their yearly Christmas Eve Service on Dec. 24 at 7 PM. This service is very popular with guests from the United States and other countries because it is in English. Sue and Mike Faulkner of North Carolina, USA have been attending this service since 2000. They have found the congregation to be welcoming and caring people. This is their family away from home. The Christmas Story, Music, Dance and Fellowship

will be led by the New Minister, Rev. Nichola Barrett-Glasgow. She ministers to 3 churches on the island - Wesley in Oranjestad, Christ Church in Sanicolas and Bethel in Brazil. What a wonderful way to celebrate the Lord's Birth on Christmas Eve with love and fellowship with sisters and brothers from all over the world. The Faulkner's look forward to this each December. Sue is a dance teacher in the states and directs the dance group made up of adults and children ages 5 and up. □

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# 10 years on, where did all the tsunami debris go?

**FAKHRURRADZIE GADE  
NINIEK KARMINI**

**Associated Press**

**BANDA ACEH, Indonesia (AP)** — Cars. Fishing boats. Houses. Entire villages. The 2004 tsunami left Banda Aceh with mountains of debris up to 6 kilometers (4 miles) inland.

Driving in the remade communities today, it's easy to wonder where it all went. Some of it is still there — recycled into road materials, buildings and furniture. Some of it was burned, creating new environmental hazards. And most of it was simply washed out to sea.

Ten years after that gigantic wave engulfed this city of 4 million on the northern tip of Indonesia's Sumatra island on the day after Christmas, Banda Aceh has been almost

totally restored. The tangled mountains of rubbish are gone, and it's hard to imagine the destruction that once choked rivers, blocked streets and ripped up trees by the roots. The endless heaps of twisted metal, splintered wood and broken concrete have all disappeared except for some scattered reminders for tourists and local residents. A drive along the coast highlights a stunning coastline with new houses perched near the beach. Lush mangroves have been planted to help withstand future tsunamis, fishermen are back at sea and farmers are again working their rice paddies.

Still, authorities are concerned about the health and environmental risks posed by debris contaminated by oil, asbestos and



**In this Monday, Dec. 27, 2004 file photo, debris litter the front lawn of Baiturrahman Grand Mosque in Banda Aceh, Aceh province, Indonesia.**

medical waste sitting on the seafloor off the coast and in 32 unregulated dump sites around the city. "Unsafe disposal of waste will cause further environmental damage in the long term," said Kuntoro Mangkusubroto, who headed the Aceh and Nias Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Agency, which led the massive clean-up effort and was dissolved in 2009 after the job was judged finished.

Banda Aceh was the hardest hit city by the disaster, which devastated hundreds of communities in more than a dozen countries around the Indian Ocean. The tsunami left an estimated 10 million cubic meters (13 million cubic yards) of debris here, most of it washed into the ocean, Mangkusubroto said. If all that was squeezed into a

1-hectare (2 1/2 acre) field, it would create a tower of trash 1,000 meters (3,000 feet) tall.

Cleaning up the wrecked city was a mammoth, often overwhelming, task.

For weeks, the streets were strewn with rubble, and rescue workers retrieved dead bodies from under houses and in ponds, said Abdul Mutalib Ahmad, who worked at Banda Aceh's only landfill and witnessed the tsunami from atop a three-story building.

"Debris was everywhere," he said. "We thought we were facing severe public health problem with the massive amount of waste." At first, many survivors simply burned wood and other garbage. But authorities discouraged them from doing that because it polluted the air and could expose them to harmful toxins that

might lead to respiratory problems. Some trash was covered with oil or chemicals, making it extremely flammable and hazardous, and in at least one case, a fire spread uncontrollably over a large area.

As key roads were cleared, trucks began carting tons of debris to the landfill every day for at least a year, Ahmad said.

But some waste inevitably got dumped at random sites around the city. They still contain leaky oil drums and asbestos-laced housing materials. Hazardous waste that was found among the rubble was buried in a separate marked area inside the city's landfill, according to Tomi Soetjipto, the Indonesia spokesman for the U.N. Development Program, which oversaw much of the clean-up. And nearly 50 tons of ex-

pired medications — some of it donated after the tsunami — sit in a warehouse awaiting safe disposal.

Three months after the tsunami, the UNDP started a \$40.5 million recycling program that employed 400,000 temporary workers to pluck wood and stone from the rubble and use the materials to rebuild roads and houses as well as to make furniture. The recycled waste was used to reconstruct 100 kilometers (62

miles) of roads and manufacture 12,000 pieces of wooden furniture, Mangkusubroto said.

The UNDP's Tsunami Recovery Waste Management Project cleared about 1 million cubic meters (1.3 million cubic yards) of debris from the city, enough to fill 400 Olympic swimming pools. It also trained about 1,300 government workers in overseeing the program. Some 67,000 metric tons of other recyclable materials such as glass, plastic and cardboard were diverted from landfills and sold in local markets. Indonesian authorities say the clean-up was possible only with the help of the international community. "Finally, the mounting tsunami rubbish was cleared. For such a huge job like that, the world didn't leave us alone to face it," Mangkusubroto said. □

**Associated Press**



# Sony announces limited release for 'The Interview'

JAKE COYLE

AP Film Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — "The Interview" was put back into theaters Thursday when Sony Pictures Entertainment announced a limited theatrical release for the comedy that provoked an

wide release.

One of the loudest critics of the film's shelving — President Barack Obama — hailed Sony's reversal.

"The president applauds Sony's decision to authorize screenings of the film," said Obama spokesman

ment was responsible for North Korea's outages.

After hackers last Wednesday threatened terrorist attacks against theaters showing the film, the nation's major multiplex chains dropped "The Interview." Sony soon there-

after canceled the film's release altogether and removed mention of it from its websites.

But that decision drew widespread criticism, including from Obama, who chastised Sony for what he deemed "a mistake" that

went against American principles of free speech. George Clooney also led a chorus pressuring for the movie's release and rallying against alleged corporate self-censorship.

*Continued on Next Page*



A banner for "The Interview" is posted outside Arclight Cinemas, Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2014, in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles. Associated Press

international incident with North Korea and outrage over its cancelled release. Sony Entertainment CEO Michael Lynton said Tuesday that Seth Rogen's North Korea farce "will be in a number of theaters on Christmas Day." He said Sony also is continuing its efforts to release the film on more platforms and in more theaters.

"We have never given up on releasing 'The Interview,'" Lynton said in a statement Tuesday. "While we hope this is only the first step of the film's release, we are proud to make it available to the public and to have stood up to those who attempted to suppress free speech."

For Sony, the decision was the culmination of a gradual about-face: After initially saying it had no plans to release the movie, the company began softening its position after it was broadly criticized.

Moviegoers celebrated the abrupt change in fortune for a film that appeared doomed as "The Interview" began popping up in the listings of independent theaters across the country Tuesday, from Atlanta to Los Angeles. The film stands to open in as many as a few hundred theaters on Thursday, the day it was originally set for

Eric Schultz. "As the president made clear, we are a country that believes in free speech, and the right of artistic expression. The decision made by Sony and participating theaters allows people to make their own choices about the film, and we welcome that outcome."

Rogen, who stars in the film he co-directed with Evan Goldberg, made his first public comments in a surreal ordeal that began with hackers leaking Sony executives' emails and culminated in an ongoing confrontation between the U.S. and North Korea. The FBI has said North Korea was behind the hacking attacks.

"The people have spoken! Freedom has prevailed! Sony didn't give up!" said Rogen on Twitter.

"VICTORY!!!!!!!" said James Franco, who co-stars in the film. "The PEOPLE and THE PRESIDENT have spoken."

North Korea's Internet was shut down in an apparent attack Monday, and continued to be roiled by intermittent outages Tuesday. That followed President Barack Obama's vow of a response to what he called North Korea's "cyber vandalism" of Sony. The White House and State Department have declined to say whether the U.S. govern-

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# SONY

Continued from Page 29

The unusual release will give indie theaters a chance to debut the most talked-about movie in the country. James Wallace, creative manager for Texas' Alamo Drafthouse, said the theater received word from Sony on Tuesday morning that Thursday's showings were a go. Among other touches, the theater will offer a patriotic menu featuring burgers, "freedom fries" and apple pie.

"You better believe it's going to be all-American," Wallace said.

Releasing "The Interview" could potentially cause a response from the hackers, who called themselves the Guardians of Peace. There have been none of the embarrassing data leaks of Sony emails since the movie's release was delayed.



In this Dec. 11, 2014 file photo, actors Seth Rogen, right, and James Franco attend the premiere of the Sony Pictures' film "The Interview" in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

In a message last week to the studio, the hackers said Sony's data would be safe so long as the film was never distributed. A limited re-

lease could potentially be followed by expansion into larger multiplex chains, a rollout that has been used in the past for controversial

films including "Zero Dark Thirty."

The country's top chains — Regal Cinemas, AMC Theatres and Cinemark

Theatres — didn't comment Tuesday.

Independent theaters had shown a stronger appetite to screen "The Interview." Art House Convergence, which represents independent exhibitors, sent a letter Monday to Sony saying its theaters (comprising about 250 screens) wished to show the film.

In recent days, Sony has been trying to secure digital partners to help distribute "The Interview" either through streaming or video-on-demand. Such a multi-format release would be historic for Hollywood, whose studios have long protected the theatrical release window.

Sony did not immediately say how many theaters will show the film, but "The Interview" will open in far from the wide release originally planned in some 3,000 theaters.

Colby Cohen, 29, of Atlanta came to the Plaza Theatre shortly after 1 p.m. with a goal of buying 5 tickets for a Thursday showing. □

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Owner Benjamin Petrocchi

Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. Visit their retail store located in front of the Historic Dutch Windmill in front of the RIO Hotel, with any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 10 am to 4 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort and at well-known cigar stores. For their complete selection and attractive by the box prices visit their retail store. Tours are also

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For a group or private tour, call 586-7833 / 593-6177 or send them an email at [aruhibacigars@gmail.com](mailto:aruhibacigars@gmail.com) [www.aruhibacigars.com](http://www.aruhibacigars.com)



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